



# Migrants taking to swimming safety

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 LIFESTYLE REPORTER

**SPEAK TO** any Aussie and swimming is almost certain to be on their list of favourite pastimes. It also is likely to be among the activities migrants new to the country are quick to adopt. But unlike the thousands of Aussies whose parents enrol them for swimming lessons as youngsters, migrants are having to learn the life-saving skill, often from scratch, as adults. State Swim SA general manager Sarah Adams said the number of new arrivals to Australia, ranging from countries such as India and China to the UK, has steadily grown, making up the bulk of lesson participants at most swim schools. "At some State Swim schools, up to 80 to 90 per cent of participants in the adult classes are migrants,"

she said. "It's particularly important that people who came from land-locked countries or countries where they weren't exposed to pools or beaches have a basic level of swimming ability." Migrant enrolment numbers were particularly strong at lessons held in Seacombe Gardens, Seaton, Norwood and Unley, Ms Adams said. Several migrants have been among those to drown on metropolitan beaches in recent years. Taking part in her second swimming lesson at Norwood yesterday was Kanchan Chakravarty, who moved to Adelaide from India about a year ago. She realised her own swimming skills needed work after first taking her three-year-old daughter Tortia to lessons. "I just knew that my swimming was bad and I wanted to be confident at the beach," she said.



**MAKING A SPLASH:** Kanchan Chakravarty and Jennifer Joshi at State Swim SA adult classes at Norwood yesterday